

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Do all retaining walls require a permit?*

A: The codes that govern retaining walls are as follows:

2009 International Residential Code, R105.2:

Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge, do not require a permit.

2009 International Building Code, 105.2:

Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or IIIA liquids do not require a permit.

Q: *Will the city inspect retaining walls outside city limits?*

A: No. The City's jurisdiction is constrained to the San Antonio City Limits.

Q: *When will I be able to return to my home?*

A: The structural engineer hired by the city will be evaluating your home and will provide you with notice when it is deemed safe to return.

Q: *Can I collect belongings and/or personal items from my home?*

A: Yes. You can coordinate with the San Antonio Police Officers on scene to retrieve any belongings and/or personal items during daylight hours only.

Q: *Are there any evacuation orders posted or pending?*

A: At this time, no. Some homes have had their Certificate of Occupancy suspended. Only those homes with a suspended Certificate of Occupancy are required to be vacated. Residents who have not had their Certificate of Occupancy suspended can return at any time.